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"FATHER" BINGHAM.

The material facts of his life can be told in brief. Luther Stillman Bingham was born in Morristown, Vt., April 12, 1807, and died in Sparta, Wis., October 5, 1897, being 90 years and about six months old. His father was a farmer, and he was reared in and to the same life. The country in northern Vermont, in his boyhood, was comparatively new, its advantages few, but such as they were, they were highly prized and wisely improved. His father was a marked man, often chosen by his fellow citizens to represent them in the state legislature, where he became intimately acquainted with the leading men of the state. He looked at all questions and issues from the moral standpoint. His father's home was also a sort of ministerial headquarters, a kind of hospitality the boys in a home do not always particularly enjoy, but which in after years they look back upon with great pleasure, from the fact that it brought them into personal contact with intelligent, high-toned men, and healthy intellectual and moral life.

At 21 years of age, Aug. 17th, 1828, Father Bingham married Miss Fidelity P. Rockwell, who died in Sparta, Jan. 20th 1881. They settled on a farm near his father's, soon after which he was converted and became an active Christian, and so remained all his life. After living on his farm a few years he moved to Stowe, a business centre a few miles away, and thence to New York City in 1851, whence he went to Sparta in 1856, and remained there till 1881, or the time of his wife's death, when he came to the Park where he remained till last April, when he went back to Sparta, to the home of his son-in-law, where he died, as he wished, and was buried beside his wife.

But what concerns us more than these details was his moral character. Familiarized with high moral principles from childhood, and with all his Puritan antecedents, his was a

character of sterling solidity, strength and worth. He was high-toned morally before he became a Christian, and his subsequent character was based on his deep, fervid and scriptural Christian experience, which was remarkably broad and comprehensive. We have known but very few men his equal in knowledge of the Bible: he could quote accurately and felicitously more Scripture than any person, save one, we ever knew, and we have heard him do it often in such a connection as to be like the rifling of a cloud through which the light streamed. His theology was thoroughly Calvinistic, of the old type, sinners dead in sin, saved by the sovereign grace of God. For the so-called new theology, he had no use, and for those who dabbled with it he had little respect and less fellowship. For short cuts into Christian life, the palace car type of Christian living and snap shot methods of going to heaven were all obnoxious to him. The modern exaltation of the social and æsthetic sides of church life, at the expense of the experimental and spiritual were an abiding grief to him.

Being such a man, he was a spiritual power, a tower of strength in the church and community. It is our candid conviction that as a moral, spiritual force, having power with God, Father Bingham, shut up as he was these last two years in his prophets chamber, was worth more to this Presbyterian church and this community than any score of Christians you can select from our midst, for the God of Israel hath proclaimed it, Isaiah, 6:13, "The holy seed shall be the substance thereof."

Mr. Burlingame, of Houghton, Mifflin & Co., told us the other day that the demand for Bret Harte's works was constantly increasing; that the sales of his works was pressing hard on those of Longfellow's. The fact is, he has done for our wild west of the Pacific coast what Kipling and others are doing for India and the Orient.

OF LOCAL INTEREST.

Mrs. Charles H. Baker, with Jack and Miss Raffin have gone to Chicago for a few days with their sister, Mrs. Manson, Washington boulevard.

Charles H. Baker has been heard from out on the Wyoming ranch. He has not yet killed any buffalo, only a few prairie dogs at first, but the bison will come next week.

The foundations are about in for Lawyer Schumacher's new house, and from all that can be discovered therefrom, he will have a fine home; the sub-foundations are put in very thoroughly,

The family of W. S. Ellis, who have lived nearly two years in Mrs. Leach's house on Laurel avenue, moved to La Grange Tuesday, having bought a choice home there, where their sons can easily reach them every day from their business in Chicago.

Rev. Galusha Anderson, D. D., of the Chicago University divinity school will preach next Sunday morning in the Baptist church. This will enable those who wanted to hear him two weeks ago, but did not know he was going to preach, to avail themselves of this opportunity.

St. Mary's church with its accustomed enterprise, will hold its annual fair in Goldberg's opera house next week, beginning Tuesday evening the 13th. We don't know what they will have or what they will do and sell, but we do know they will succeed, they always do that, they know how. Prof. O'Connor will have charge of the music. Don't fail to see it.

A man with a genius for figures has found out that there are 10,000 boats on the Erie Canal, which if placed in line like a train of cars would stretch half way from Buffalo to New York, and that a freight train long enough to move our wheat crop of this year, 525,000,000 bushels, would reach all the way from San Francisco to New York, or about 3,500 miles.